

We didn't mean to do it. It doesn't bring back that person's life. Senator Chambers talked about the Evans case which was a very bizzare instance that took place. I would just like to read a few of the excerpts from that. "Timothy Evans was accused of the murder of his 14-month-old daughter, Geraldine, in November 1949. For murdering her he was hanged in 1950; and with the conviction went the assumption that he had also strangled his 19-year-old wife, Beryl, who was also found killed in the house where they had lived together. Evans, an illiterate Welsh truck driver" and I want to emphasize the point illiterate because there has been conclusive evidence that has shown there is a tremendous correlation between those who are sentenced to death and do die and those that are poor oppressed minorities.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR SIMON: You will have to search very long and very hard and I don't think you can come up with more than one or two at the most of people from well-heeled backgrounds who are sentenced to die. It's the people who cannot afford it that are. I'd like to close with this quote again from the President's Crime Commission. I think this overwhelmingly states the argument in terms of discrimination. "...the death sentence and the exercise of dispensing power by the courts and the executive follow discriminatory patterns. The death sentence is disproportionately imposed and carried out on the poor, the Negro, and the members of unpopular groups." Mr. President, fellow senators. I think the evidence is rather conclusive.

PRESIDENT: You are out of time, Senator.

SENATOR SIMON: The death penalty is not a deterrent and it is used unjustly.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, so that there is no misunderstanding and Senator Venditte, I know that there was some confusion on this. I agreed to let Senator Chambers try to advance his bill before I took up my amendment. Now I hope his bill does not advance and therefore, I would try my amendment. But because it is a dramatic difference of philosophy, one is a very strict death penalty, his is the abolition and last year he did not get the chance to really try to advance it. I feel the body should have the opportunity to vote on which philosophy they want to go with. But if his motion or if his bill fails to advance, then I will ask permission to immediately take up my amendment. Do you understand that? Now I'm going to say some things to Senator Simon that will upset him and to Senator Chambers that will surprise him. Your 30 year parole or your mandatory thing you adopted yesterday that you believe, means somebody is going to spend 30 years in prison guaranteed does not mean that at all. The statement was made here just a few minutes ago that this absolutely meant somebody was going to spend 30 years there. I tell you unequivocally absolutely that that can mean and does mean a little over 15 years, because of LB 567, other provisions, good time laws, so on and so forth. I think that there is a fair argument that instead of increasing and making very strict standards yesterday you did precisely the opposite. Don't take my word for it. March on down to